

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, November 16, 2011

Present

Lea Tomaszewski
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Charlotte McCoid
Richard Kamins
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (Sec.)
Lee Godburn (Chair)
Charlotte McCoid (7:10)
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Barbara Arafah
Lauren Hodge (student rep)
Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Maria Malafronte (student rep)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
David Davis
Bob Santangelo (Council)

Call to order

Commission Chair Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Municipal Building, room 208, Middletown, CT.

Agenda change: Richard Kamins made a motion to move Aryn Kyer's budget report from New Business 7. a) to the top of the agenda. Approved unanimously.

Public session: Aryn Kyer presented a planned budget review for the Jef Johnson workshop. The change involves changing the earlier grant proposal of holding two workshops to a single workshop.

New Business 7. a) Discussion on Aryn Kyer and the Jef Johnson workshop. Joyce Kirkpatrick made a motion to accept the revised proposal, Richard Kamins seconded. Discussion followed. Approved with one abstention from Charlotte McCoid.

Minutes from October 26, 2011

Motion by Jenny Hawkins Lecce to accept minutes, Richard Kamins seconds. Approved with abstentions from Barbara Arafah, Charlotte McCoid, Joyce Kirkpatrick.

Remarks from the Chair

Commission Chair Godburn reflected on the success of the AFWP on Broadway and its return next year with Lee as director. Wine tasting for FUTURES on Nov. 18 at Esca from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Old Business

Budget Report - nothing to report. City Arts office staff is diminished by one part-time position as the State funding for the position has not yet been determined (expected decision is in December).

Program Update- Stephan noted the following upcoming meetings:

i) Arts Stakeholders Group: ongoing.

ii) Arts & Creative Industries Council, Creative Juice (Chamber of Commerce): Met on Nov. 10 with low attendance.

iii) Website- Arts2Go.org, work continues on fixing a programming issue.

Ethics Code- Gift Limits, no news.

Subcommittee Assignments- Lee will be sending an email notice to the commissioners and will compile the new list for the next meeting.

Other: The Dept. of Economic Development and Community Development and the CT Office of the Arts for the state are still in a restructuring phase with a smaller staff. David Bahlman is the new head of the CT Office of the Arts.

Committee Reports

Public Art Committee

i) Catalogue of Public Art Collection: being compiled and brought up to date and Joyce asks that the student reps might consider volunteering to proof the map portion of the guide to the displayed works. She proposes meeting in January and Maria, Lauren and Chelsea agreed to help.

ii) MCAAAA: Jaroslav Kosmina is the latest artist being displayed as the newest MCAAAAee. Well-framed by Ursel's Web.

iii) Display Area Dedication: to be determined once catalog is complete.

Planning & Projects Committee:

i) Arts Walk: no news other than having to reintroduce the program to the new Mayor, which Stephan has already included in his transition report to the former Mayor.

ii) Arts Advocacy Award: Lee and Cassandra will find a way to invite the public to nominate persons for the award and to also see a list of previous winners.

Nominating Committee

i) Commission Vacancy (1). There are some very good candidates awaiting review with Mayor Drew.

ii) Review of Bylaws: no news.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): no report this month.

New Business

MCA meeting dates 2012: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23, Jun. 27, Jul. 25, Aug 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 19, Jan. 23 (2013) Jenny Hawkins Lecce made a motion to approve, Richard Kamins seconds. Approved unanimously.

MCA Budget 2012-2013: ongoing.

Other: MHS artists will be having an art reception at 8 p.m. at the Buttonwood Tree on November 25. It is scheduled to follow Holiday on Main Street ceremonies.

Miscellaneous

North End Arts Rising: Grant report for Kids Arts 2011.

Oddfellow Thank You Letter: Received for last grant.

Other – Announcements

Wesleyan Potters extends an invitation to all commissioners to attend their annual holiday arts fair reception on Nov. 25. Greater Middletown Chorale performs Sunday, November 20, 4 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown. Barbara Arafteh shared that the weather adversely affected the public's ability to book and reserve tickets and it showed in

lackluster audiences at the recent opera and other art events. A jazz event will be presented by the Concert Association in early 2012. Richard noted that the Gilbert and Sullivan Association will be giving a viewing of their Middletown performance at MHS on Nov. 28.

Adjournment

Richard Kamins moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Charlotte McCoid and the Commission will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on Dec. 14, 2011.

Respectfully submitted
Jenny Hawkins Lecce